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## **PUBLIC HEALTH MEANINGFUL USE MEASURES**

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Iowa Providers:

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is committed to helping Iowa providers achieve meaningful use of health information technology. This includes the ability to exchange immunization, reportable disease, and syndromic surveillance data electronically with providers through their certified electronic health records. At this time, eligible professionals and hospitals in Iowa will not be able to perform the tests prescribed for the public health measures of stage 1 meaningful use. This letter is effective through 3/30/2012 at which time a new letter with updated information will be posted.

Current status:

- Iowa's Immunization Registry Information System (IRIS) does not have the capacity to receive immunization data electronically from electronic health records. The IDPH is in the process of transitioning to a new software application that will allow immunization data to be submitted electronically through the Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN). As soon as IDPH has details available regarding file specifications for data exchange and test messages, information will be posted on the IRIS website at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/immunization.aspx>. We expect to have this information posted in February 2012.
- The Iowa Disease Surveillance System (IDSS) does not have the capacity to receive reportable lab results electronically from electronic health records. The IDPH is working with the IHIN vendor to implement electronic reporting capabilities through the IHIN. The implementation guide for electronic laboratory reporting and testing with the IDSS system will be distributed in early 2012 at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/idss.asp>. It is anticipated that IDPH will have the capacity to assist hospitals achieve the stage 1 Meaningful Use objective during 2012.
- IDPH does not maintain a syndromic surveillance data registry at present and therefore cannot accept syndromic data electronically from electronic health records. The IDPH is conducting an assessment to determine if syndromic data will be electronically collected in the future; however there has not been any decision made at this time.

As the IDPH works to upgrade its technology and standards to enable the receipt of electronic information from electronic health records, eligible professionals and hospitals should claim exclusion if they are attesting in early 2012 from the public health meaningful use measures. Please see the enclosed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document with additional information.

Sincerely,

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, B.S.N., M.Ed., M.D.

**FAQ for Meaningful Use and Public Health  
January 2012**

**Q: The final meaningful use rule requires Eligible Providers “EPs” and Eligible Hospitals “EHs” to report on a total of five meaningful use objectives from the menu set. When selecting five objectives from the menu set, EPs and EHs must choose one option from the public health menu set (two available for EPs, three for EHs). The Iowa Department of Public Health “IDPH” is not currently able to accept data from any of the public health menu set objectives. How should providers handle this?**

A: For meaningful use reporting, the provider should select **only** one of the public health measures. The provider then claims an exclusion from the selected measure. For more detailed information please go to [https://questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/10162/kw/public%20health](https://questions.cms.hhs.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/10162/kw/public%20health)

**Q: In other words, can a provider or hospital achieve Stage 1 Meaningful Use even if their state is not set up to electronically accept the meaningful use public health objectives?**

A: Yes, by following the instructions above.

**Q: When will the IDPH be ready to accept Immunization records electronically from an EHR (EP/EH menu option)?**

A: The IDPH is working to implement electronic reporting capabilities. We anticipate this functionality will be available in 2012. The department is in the process of transitioning to a new software application that will allow for this to be done. The exchange of immunization records will occur through the IHIN. The long-term goal is to seamlessly submit information from EHRs to IRIS through a direct connection with the IHIN. An implementation guide for constructing messages will be published in February 2012.

**Q: When will the IDPH be ready to accept reportable lab results electronically from an EHR (EH menu option)?**

A: The IDPH is working with the IHIN vendor to implement electronic reporting capabilities. A timeline for implementation has not been solidified although we anticipate accepting test messages in 2012. The long-term goal is to seamlessly submit information from EHRs to IDSS through a direct connection with the IHIN. An implementation guide for constructing messages will be available in February 2012

**Q. Will the IDPH be able to accept electronic information in 2012? Will we be able to claim an exclusion from public health meaningful use measures next year as well?**

A. Iowa providers should only plan to claim exclusion in early calendar year 2012. IDPH is actively working to upgrade its technology and standards to enable the receipt of electronic information from electronic health records. As additional information is available, it will be accessible to providers at <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/> and <http://www.iowahealth.org/>. To be added to a distribution list to be notified of changes in capacity to receive electronic health information, please contact [tracy.donner@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:tracy.donner@idph.iowa.gov).